

TAHOE NATIONAL FOREST, CALIFORNIA

The bill (H.R. 1439) to facilitate the sale of certain land in Tahoe National Forest in the State of California to Placer County, California, was considered, ordered to a third reading, read the third time, and passed.

ELECTION OF THE DELEGATE OF GUAM

The bill (H.R. 1460) to allow for election of the Delegate of Guam by other than separate ballot, and for other purposes, was considered, ordered to a third reading, read the third time, and passed.

MARK TWAIN NATIONAL FOREST, MISSOURI

The bill (H.R. 1779) to make a minor adjustment in the exterior boundary of the Devils Backbone Wilderness in the Mark Twain National Forest, Missouri, to exclude a small parcel of land containing improvements, was considered, ordered to a third reading, read the third time, and passed.

FEDERAL POWER ACT EXTENSION FOR IOWA

The bill (H.R. 2165) to extend the deadline under the Federal Power Act applicable to the construction of FERC Project Number 3862 in the State of Iowa, and for other purposes, was considered, ordered to a third reading, read the third time, and passed.

FEDERAL POWER ACT EXTENSION FOR COLORADO

The bill (H.R. 2217) to extend the deadline under the Federal Power Act applicable to the construction of FERC Project Number 9248 in the State of Colorado, and for other purposes, was considered, ordered to a third reading, read the third time, and passed.

HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT EXTENSION

The bill (H.R. 2841) to extend the time required for the construction of a hydroelectric project, was considered, ordered to a third reading, read the third time, and passed.

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, JULY 20, 1998

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand in adjournment until 1 p.m. on Monday, July 20. I further ask unanimous consent that when the Senate reconvenes on Monday, immediately following the prayer, the routine requests through the morning hour be granted, and the Senate then begin a period for the transaction of morning business

until 3 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak for up to 5 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I further ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XXII, Members have until 2 p.m. on Monday to file first-degree amendments to the legislative branch appropriations bill. I further ask unanimous consent that following the debate on the legislative branch bill on Monday, the Senate begin consideration of S. 2260, the Commerce-State-Justice appropriations bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, for the information of all Senators, when the Senate convenes on Monday at 1 p.m., there will be a period for the transaction of morning business until 3 p.m. Following morning business, the Senate will resume consideration of the legislative branch appropriations bill. Following that debate, the Senate will turn to the consideration of S. 2260, the Commerce-State-Justice appropriations bill. The majority leader has announced there will be no rollcall votes during Monday's session. Therefore, any votes ordered with respect to the legislative branch or Commerce-State-Justice bills will be stacked to occur at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, July 21.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I now ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in adjournment under the previous order, following the remarks of Senator JEFFORDS from Vermont.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. JEFFORDS addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

REPUBLICAN HEALTH CARE BILL

Mr. JEFFORDS. This has been, to me, one of the more important days of this session. I believe that is true because of the introduction earlier by Senator LOTT of the Republican health care bill.

First, I commend the majority leader for the dexterous way in which he handled both allowing the members of a committee, a standing committee, to work, and then to join them with a leadership task force, formed by the majority leader, to put together a bill which could be backed by all Members of the Republican side.

That was no easy task, but I am happy to say that by working together I think we have provided, for the Senate's review, an outstanding piece of legislation. I also want to begin by commending Senator NICKLES and all

the Members who participated in putting this legislation together on the task force, and in my committee. I think it is solid legislation that will result in a greatly improved health care system for Americans. I am proud to be a cosponsor of the Patients' Bill of Rights.

As always, there has been a flurry of work over the past few weeks as we have put this legislation together. But this last-minute work is only possible because we laid a sound foundation throughout the entire 105th Congress through many hearings.

In particular, there are members on my committee, who also served on the task force, who I think were key in bringing about a consensus.

First, Senator FRIST, who, obviously, from his valuable expertise as a physician, as well as a masterful legislator, has assisted in helping us provide a bill which we can be proud of and which we can be assured will be in the best interest of all patients as well as the health care system.

Senator COLLINS, who came here after being a State regulator in the health care area, provided tremendous knowledge and insight into how we could weave in and out the very complicated aspects of what should the Federal Government do and what should the States do, with leaving an emphasis primarily on allowing the States—which I will talk about later.

Over the past 14 months, the Labor and Human Resources Committee has held 11 hearings related to issues of health care quality, confidentiality, genetic discrimination, privacy, and HCFA's implementation of its new health insurance responsibilities.

Senator BILL FRIST's Public Health and Safety Subcommittee has also held three hearings on the work of AHCPR. That has to do with trying to ensure that we have adequate information about outcomes and to try to utilize that information to better equip our professional people to be the best in the world in health care. Each of these hearings helped us in developing the separate pieces of legislation that are reflected in the Patients' Bill of Rights.

Other colleagues here and on the House side have worked on this subject for an extended period of time, as well. Many of the protections that are included in the Patients' Bill of Rights are similar to those fashioned by Senator ROTH in the Finance Committee last year when we provided many of these same protections to plans that serve Medicare patients.

As we prepared this legislation, we had three goals in mind: first, give families the protections they want and need; second, ensure that medical decisions are made by physicians in consultation with their patients; and, finally, keep the cost of this legislation low so it does not displace anyone from being able to get health care coverage.

As we all know, the number of people who participate is extremely sensitive